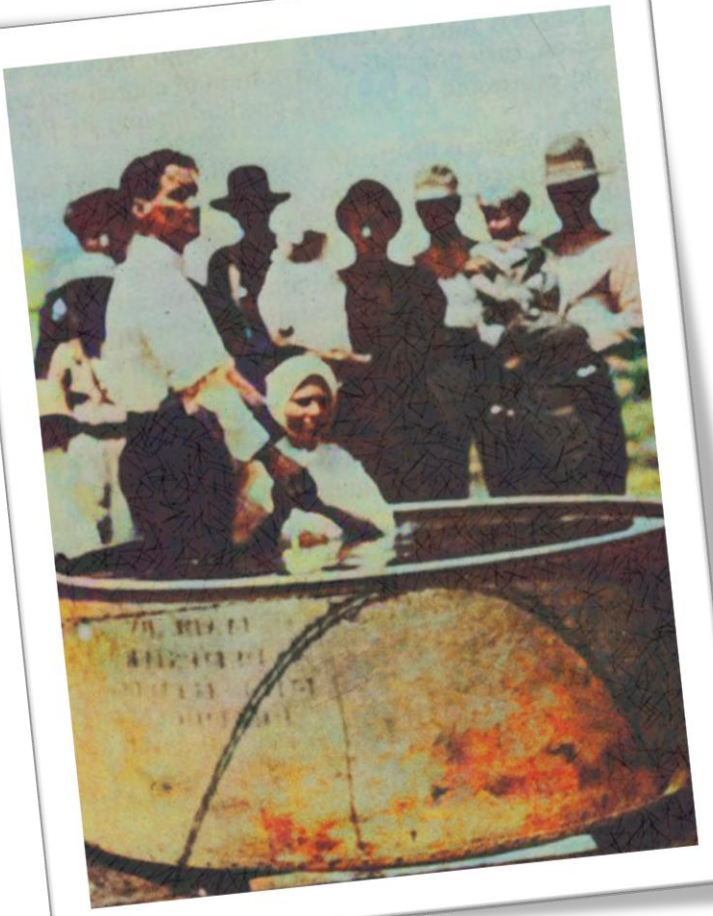
"What prevents me from being BAPTIZED?"

—Acts 8:36 (LSB)



Valley GBC of Armagh, PA

July 27, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-seventh Day of July, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"* (#17, v. 1).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Nothing but the Blood"* (#264).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Redeemed"* (#265).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"* (#147).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"BAPTISM: THE TRINITARIAN CONFESSION."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Calvary Covers it All"* (#232).

Benediction.*

Stewardship a way of life

Week of July 20 – July 26

Sunday School—9; Morning Worship—17;
Midweek—3; Weekly Offering—$401.[55]

Cover Illustration: Brethren Church Baptism in a Nebraska stock tank, 1913.

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study:
Thurs., 6:30PM.

QUESTION:
HAVE YOU BEEN *SCRIPTURALLY* BAPTIZED?

In a few weeks, we will be having a Baptismal Service. The water *saves no one*—only the *Blood* can cleanse us of our sin (1 John 1:7)! **But nonetheless, it is <u>Christ's solemn command</u>** (*'nuff said!*). The Head of the Church, based upon His singular authority (Matt. 28:18), instituted the Holy Ordinance after His Resurrection from the dead. Scriptural Baptism requires four things: **1)** a **proper candidate** (a saved person), **2)** a **proper authority** (a true, Bible believing church), **3)** a **proper motivation** (the "WHY;" the purpose and intent behind the rite), and **4)** the **proper mode:** Trine Immersion (Matt. 28:19). A **Biblical basis for rebaptism** when something is amiss with a prior baptism is found in Acts 19:1-7. See the Pastor if you feel the burden of obedience to follow the Master in this! Greater light creates a greater level of personal accountability (James 4:17).

NEXT SUNDAY is our Church Picnic, which will be held directly after services. EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to remain with us and enjoy this time of food and fellowship. Once again, we are operating on the usual potluck basis.

Notes on Trine Immersion: a Sacred Commission (Part I)

Pastor Terry L. Reese (TEXT: Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 8:26-40).

I. A CRISIS. Baptism has been **historically distorted** (e.g., its practice, meaning, purposes, etc.), and is **currently devalued**. *What* is God trying to say in the Ordinance? *Why* is it important?

A. Some are confused by Bible texts referring to ***Spirit Baptism***, as opposed to ***water baptism*** (e.g., Matt. 3:11, 1Cor. 12:13).

B. Confusion about Baptism's relationship unto Salvation. Baptismal Regenerationists believe that water baptism is essential for salvation, pointing to such texts as Acts 2:38 and Matt. 16:16.

The Bible is clear: ***1)*** Justification is by *faith*, apart from works (Rom. 3:28), ***2)*** we are *saved by grace through faith* (Eph. 2:8-9), and ***3)*** whoever *believes* (i.e., trusts) in Him *shall* be saved (John 3:16)! ***4)*** Water *cannot* wash away sin, but the Blood *CAN* (1John 1:7)! ***5)*** Baptism is distinguished from the saving Gospel (1Cor. 1:14-18).

C. Modern Neo-evangelical apathy and anti-formalism. Many will attend a church for years—*and yet*, *find no compelling reason whatsoever to obey Christ in this* (John 14:15, 21; 15:14)!!! In contrast, the "unbaptized Christian" was unknow to earlier Church Eras. The normal NT pattern: baptism *always* accompanied conversion (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:41; 8:12; 36-39; 9:18; 10:47-48).

II. The basic nature of Baptism.

A. A Holy Ordinance, commanded of the Lord, the Head of the Church, unto *all* of His People (Matt. 28:19; Acts 22:16).

B. A Discipleship-Pledge of personal identification with the Triune God, and a testimony unto His Nature and saving acts.

C. "Christian Theater;" a *symbolic, visual proclamation* of Truth.

III. The importance of mode: *what*, exactly, is God *saying* through the prescribed pictorial symbolism of Holy Baptism?

Reasons for the attitude of modern indifference about mode: ***1)*** ignorance regarding the *clarity* of Scripture—wrongly assuming that God is the author of confusion (1Cor. 14:33); ***2)*** fear that truth causes disunity & offense; ***3)*** general postmodern apathy with regard to *truth*, and basic indifference to the revealed will of God.

Basically, there are **four different modes** in practice today: sprinkling, pouring, single immersion, and trine immersion. All of them picture something *different*—and all of them are thus presenting a different message! **Next week:** WHY we believe that *only* Trine Immersion pictures the message that *God* intended!